



Wateringbury's Two 1914 - 1918 War Memorials



Young soldiers from the 1st Battalion DCLI training in Falmouth, 1914.

This book includes the names of all those who lost their lives in WWI and are commemorated on either, or both, the village and the old school memorial which hang in St John the Baptist church.

It also includes the names taken from the old school memorial of pupils who served in WWI and came home.

Researched and Compiled
by
Dail Whiting

**They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn;
As the going down of the sun, and in the morning,
We will remember them.**

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The cover photo is of young soldiers from the 1st Battalion Duke of Cornwall Light Infantry Regiment training in Falmouth in 1914 before they were sent to the front.

The soldier in the background was Albert Thomas Herbert who is included in this book.

Wateringbury's Two WWI Memorials

Introduction and General Notes.



Wateringbury has two memorials for those who gave their lives in WWI, and are commemorated on either the 1914-1918 memorial which hangs in the 'Chapel of St George' in Wateringbury Church, or on the centre panel (Roll of Honour) on the old School War Memorial which now hangs in the church vestry.

There are 41 men commemorated on the memorial in the Chapel of St George, and 36 men commemorated on the old School War Memorial Roll of Honour.

The old School War Memorial has five tall panels, two either side of the Roll of Honour centre panel and two smaller outer panels reserved for men who gave their lives in WWII. The four tall side panels includes 213 names of Wateringbury school pupils and teachers who served in

WWI but returned home.

The following pages include those who gave their lives as well as servicemen who returned home. The men who gave their lives are marked '**Casualty of War**', and have been given a poppy. The cause of death described as either 'killed in action', 'died of wounds'. or simply 'died', is as recorded by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. All but one of these men, Charles James Dawson, have both a brief military record, a short family biography, as well as an appropriate regimental badge. However, to identify Navy personnel, a generic badge of a Naval Crown, is used.

Although most of the returning servicemen have been given a short family biography, and in many cases a brief military record, the force in which they served cannot always be identified, as there is far less military information available for survivors of the war. In some cases, the fact that a number of men used their middle, or shortened name, makes it impossible to trace every man who came home. Consequently, the amount of proven detail for each returning serviceman varies, and in a number of cases, men could not be traced at all.

Although the names of men on the two memorials are listed alphabetically, both by surname as well as Christian name, for this book brothers are grouped together and listed by age, the eldest first. For easy identification, brothers are listed in red or blue, the different colours used to distinguish adjacent families.

Please be aware there are a few discrepancies with some names on the memorials, all of which are noted in the individual memorial booklets.

On the WWI memorial in the Chapel Of St George in the church:

William Thomas Butcher	should be	William Thomas Butchers
Basil Henry Cheesman	should be	Henry Basil Cheesman
Ernest Albert James	should be	Edward Albert James
Arthur Jessop	should be	Arthur Jessup

On the Wateringbury School Memorial:

John Walter and James Jury are recorded in the surname Ladams, which appears to be an alias.
In the case of Private Benjamin Stephens, there is a discrepancy with his service number.

Additional notes

There were many men, and a small number of young women, who were born in Wateringbury and served in the armed forces in WWI, who were not included on either of the two Wateringbury war memorials. For those in this group, who lost their lives, I would suggest they are almost certainly commemorated on war memorials in another village or town where their parents or spouse were living after the war.

Wateringbury servicemen who returned home from the war, and are not named on the old School Memorial side panels, it is simply because they didn't attend Wateringbury school. Nevertheless, we honour and remember them all equally.

It was not intended to record each man's full service record, as this would be a major task. However, if anyone has any information relating to a relative's service in WWI, I would be delighted to update these pages. Please leave your comments on the pages at the back of this booklet.

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WWI memorial in the Chapel of St George
 From an early postcard c1921



St John the Baptist war memorial, 1914-18
Chapel of St George



Wateringbury School War Memorial which now hangs in the vestry

“This Memorial was erected by the Scholars, Staff, Old Boys & Friends to record the names of the Old Boys and Masters who served in H.M.Forces and those who gave their lives during the Great War (1914-18)”

At the time the School Memorial was erected in 1920, the headmaster was Edgar Alfred Smith. Edgar, generally known as Mr Clark-Smith, was also referred to by his pupils as ‘Gaffer Smith’. Edgar Smith, a native of Faversham, came to the school in the late 1890s. The 1901 Census records that he was a 30 year old Schoolmaster and Organist, living with his sister Annie in the School House. Edgar married Edith Wells from The Roses, Bow Road, in 1905, and in 1908 he founded the Wateringbury Scout troop. He was still living in the School House in 1911, by which time he was Headmaster and his sister Annie a Schoolteacher.

The board was removed from the old school on Red Hill following its closure in 1976. Having been stored locally for a time, it was passed to the care of the K.C.C. It was subsequently refurbished and now hangs in the Wateringbury church vestry.

The brass centre plate, headed “Roll of Honour”, commemorates thirty-six men who gave their lives in World War I. The two wooden panels, either side of the Roll of Honour, record 213 names of those who served and returned home.

The two smaller outer side panels record the names of eleven men who gave their lives in World War II.